

Jane Annis Lambremont, FMLA, 1931–2005



Jane Annis Lambremont, FMLA, died quietly at her home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on November 30, 2005, after

a brief fight against cancer. Jane had great zest, which she brought to each and every endeavor in her very accomplished life and career. She even planned a champagne reception as her final gift—two cases of champagne were consumed in celebrating her life! She would have loved that.

While she had many roles—academic librarian, hospital librarian, consultant, educator, and consumer health librarian—Jane will be remembered for her contributions as a hospital librarian and champion of hospital librarianship. She spoke up for hospital libraries wherever she had an audience and successfully secured grants to establish and expand hospital library services.

Jane was born in Laurel, Mississippi, on April 12, 1931. She grew up in New Orleans, where she attended Newcomb College of Tulane University and developed an early interest in libraries and library science. The librarian at Tulane University even offered to pay her tuition at Louisiana State University (LSU) Library School and offered a job upon graduation. However, Jane's life took a different path at the time. Marriage and family followed her graduation from college in 1951. Jane kept busy raising four children and participating in the community as an LSU faculty spouse.

When her youngest daughter was in school, her keen intellect and abundant energy led her to consider what she wanted to do with the "rest of her life." While exploring her options, Jane discovered that the LSU library school's curriculum allowed her to attend

classes while raising her family. Upon graduation with her master's of science degree in library science (MSLS) ("MizLiz") in 1969, Jane embarked on her career as a hospital librarian. As recounted in her MLA oral history [1], Jane's graduation coincided with the establishment of an intern training program at Earl K. Long Memorial Hospital (EKL) in Baton Rouge. EKL had a small book and journal collection but needed a part-time librarian. Jane was ready and enthusiastic. She was on her way to a rewarding career that established hospital libraries and librarians as major players in the health care community.

At EKL, Jane "raised" the first classes of interns, some of whom became lifelong friends. Her early years at the hospital were memorable, and comments from some of the physicians of that period show how influential she was and how revered she still is: As one physician, Floyd "Flip" Roberts, recounted, she was

[T]he founder of all effective medical libraries in Baton Rouge. All of us who had experience with her in the '70s now realize that she was "Google" before there was "Google," and was one of the real delights on an EKL experience in those years.

Her good friend, Trent James, commented in his eulogy,

Jane was the medical librarian onsite and what a glorious one she was. The library was the center of the EKL [Memorial Hospital] experience. She nurtured many a young medical student and fledgling physician. Jane was bright, in fact, brilliant.

He further recounted:

LSU surgical residents in their third year were required to write a paper. These residents would wait until their EKL rotation to do the work on their paper because Jane would help them with the research and data gathering. . . Jane had the only pass-

word [for MEDLINE] and training to use the telex or teletype to obtain data from National Library of Medicine [NLM] and other libraries which served to furnish data to physicians. She could make it happen. By her doing this essential work, Jane brought evidence-based medicine to the docs and to their patients, improved medical education and improved patient care. As a physician, Jane became your emissary, your professor, yes, even mother confessor, the bright light in the darkness of ignorance and the "pulla of ya butta outa" trouble as it related to information gathering; she was a premier medical librarian.

Jane had found her professional calling. She loved to say she learned to "talk doctor" very well as she recalled stories of those early career years.

During her years at EKL as a part-time librarian, Jane recognized the need for librarians at all the hospitals. She embarked on a training program for LSU library school students, mentoring them and encouraging them to pursue careers in hospital librarianship. Evelyn Olivier, AHIP, Jane's first student assistant, in a note to James, expresses the sentiments of Jane's trainees:

She is the reason I have been a medical librarian for the past 30 years. Library school was the pits . . . Jane made the real work of librarianship great fun. She made clear the importance of providing quality health information to health care professionals. She was my mentor and allowed me to . . . go on rounds with the health care team and experiment where other medical librarians did not.

Also during this time, Jane began writing grant proposals. She was remarkably successful, too, largely due to her enthusiasm, energy, and persistence. She secured an NLM resource project grant for *Pediatric Care and the Clinical Librarian*, and an NLM resource improvement grant for the Earl K. Long Hospital.

She also established the Community Medical Library Consortium of Baton Rouge, created the hospital library training program for students at the LSU graduate school of library science, and taught the medical bibliography course at the LSU medical center.

In 1980, Jane took her talents to North Carolina, where she worked with Samuel Hitt, AHIP, FMLA, director of the Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) [2]. She spent the next three years as liaison librarian for the statewide Area Health Education Center (AHEC) that was based in Chapel Hill. During her tenure, she worked with the AHEC librarians to establish standards for AHEC libraries. Her oral history recounted the challenges she faced getting these standards accepted by the AHEC directors. Jane was successful in helping the AHEC librarians secure grants and expand their library services. Jill Mayer, AHIP, recounted:

I met Jane in 1979 when I became a brand new librarian. She was the statewide librarian coordinator for the NC Area Health Education Program (AHEC) library network. AHEC was a fairly new program at the time and Jane had the intelligence, wit, and enthusiasm needed in creating a "statewide network." Jane had the ability to make each of us to not only feel special and important but to also begin to work as a group not as independent librarians. She was successful.

Cyril Feng, then director of the University of Maryland Health Sciences Library, in Baltimore [3], recruited Jane as education coordinator for the newly formed Southeastern/Atlantic Regional Medical Library (SE/A RML) in 1983. There she expanded her range of influence and developed a series of workshops and seminars that focused on training hospital librarians. While these were developed for the SE/A RML, she taught many of these courses throughout the country. Jane often co-taught classes with others. Martha Jane Zachert, AHIP, FMLA, wrote to James:

Jane Lambremont was my workshop teaching partner on numerous occasions from Jekyll Island, GA, to Nashville, TN. She knew intuitively when to push a class, when to lighten up. She could deal hard facts or light humor, always to the advantage of the class—and her partner. She could mentor me in hospital librarianship and teach a workshop at the same time. Count me among those who will miss her most.

Academic librarianship was an uneasy fit for Jane. She loved being in the hospital setting, working directly with health professionals and "talking doctor." So when a position became available in 1984 at the VA Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, she returned to hospital librarianship, and, when a similar post at the VA in Alexandria, Louisiana, became vacant in 1994, she moved there to be closer to her family. Back in her home state, Jane continued to network, and she developed yet another consortium. She retired in 1997.

Upon returning to Baton Rouge as a "retiree," Jane continued her career as a consumer health librarian. She started as a volunteer. Then to assure continuation of the library, she negotiated funding for a part-time position, assuring that a librarian would be in place when she eventually really retired.

Jane was active in local, regional, and national library associations. As a hospital leader, she was invited to participate in a gathering of hospital librarians at NLM. Sara Hill Blackwell recounts her "favorite story about Jane" (also in Jane's oral history) about:

[A] workshop with NLM staff and the NLM Director, Martin Cummings[, AHIP, FMLA]. Those of us attending the meeting later called ourselves the Bethesda 11 because there was one hospital librarian representative chosen from each NLM regional library area. Anyway, we each had our assigned topic, and it was such a *very* serious and almost dull meeting, until Jane leaned forward and literally disappeared under the table (she slipped off the great big tippy chair on rollers). That broke the ice with gales of laughter from all of us. From then on it was a

great meeting, with plenty of dialog and humor, all thanks to Jane. There is no one who can compare with her positive attitude, her sense of humor, and her infectious laugh.

Jane was instrumental in the establishment of the Hospital Libraries Section of MLA and was a leader in developing the first written *Hospital Library Standards*, chairing the section's Hospital Library Standards and Practice Committee in 1980. She also developed and taught MLA continuing education courses and was president of the then-named South Central Regional Group in 1980. Later, Jane was elected to the MLA Board of Directors, serving from 1984 to 1987. She took her responsibilities seriously and was a faithful steward of the association's resources; she also ensured that hospital library and hospital librarian issues and concerns were heard. She was made a Fellow in 1996, in recognition of her career and her contributions to the association and the profession.

Jane could be counted on to speak her mind, with intelligence and wit. T. Mark Hodges, AHIP, FMLA, recounts that he had become known for endorsing Jane's ideas by uttering

[T]he enthusiastic response of members of Britain's House of Commons, when listening to an orator of note: "Hear! Hear!" Jane came to count on this, would look around to see if I was present, and, as each point was made, look in my direction to indicate it was time to "do my thing." I was happy to oblige.

An inveterate traveler, Jane enjoyed all modes of transportation—from helicopters to luxury liners. She was always up for an adventure and took everything in stride with a laugh and with her "gin Bloody Mary" at the end of the day. In her travels, Jane could not pass up a shopping opportunity—always looking for trinkets, T-shirts, whatever, for her grandchildren, who never tired of getting their surprise birthday boxes from Gram.

Jane made and kept friends wherever she lived, worked, and

played. Retiring to her home in Baton Rouge enabled her to rekindle many early friendships, and she kept busy with a bridge club, a book club (Second Monday), symphony concerts, and, of course, the family she dearly loved—her children, Carol Lambremont Smith, Suzanne Lambremont, John Lambremont, and Barbara Peters, their spouses, and eight grandchildren, all of whom survive her.

Jane was a great friend, mentor, teacher, and colleague. Farewell, Jane. Many will miss you, but never forget you. Let's all join in with a hearty: Hear! Hear!

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Trent James for sharing with me the eulogy he pre-

sented at Jane's memorial service, along with the many email messages he received from Jane's friends and colleagues. These include notes from: Floyd Roberts, Evelyn Oliver, Jill Mayer, Sara Hill Blackwell, T. Mark Hodges, Martha Jane Zachert, Nancy Clemmons, AHIP, Rebecca Satterthwaite, and Jan LaBeause. I thank them all for capturing Jane so well and bringing back wonderful memories. Special thanks go to Carol Lambremont Smith for her assistance and sharing of other memorial tributes from Mary Dewey and Becky Larkin.

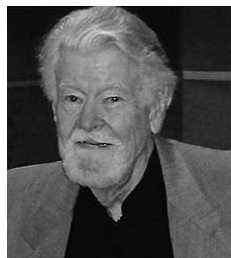
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Samuel William Hitt, FMLA, 1921–2005



Samuel William Hitt, FMLA, was a force in medical librarianship, by dint of his charisma as well as his expertise,

leadership, and drive to improve all he touched. He directed three academic health sciences libraries, was president of the Medical Library Association (MLA), and cofounded (and was second president) of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries (AAHSL).^{*} Moreover, he was known to all in his decades in the profession.

Sam was born in Prescott, Arkansas, on November 13, 1921. He died at home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on December 11, 2005. The oldest of four siblings, he grew up in Little Rock and graduated from Little Rock Junior College in 1941. He spent World War II in the Navy, serving in the Pacific. On as-

signment at the Naval Air Station near Memphis, he met a librarian, Harriette Thompson, at the Memphis public library; she became his wife and inspired his eventual career choice. He earned his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Missouri in 1948 and then (as possibly the only medical librarian whose original career goal was screenwriting) studied cinematography at the University of Southern California. After a year, he entered library school instead, earning his master's from Emory University in 1951. He spent the first third of his professional career at the University of Missouri Library, where he developed a proficiency in technical services. Between 1951 and 1965, he implemented a pioneering automation system, served as bibliographer in the order department, headed the serials department, and directed technical processing.

Library directorships

Sam's move to academic health sciences libraries came first in 1965, when he directed the University of Connecticut Health Center Library (1965–1971). He then proceeded to

the Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center (HAM-TMC) Library (1972–1976) and, finally, the Health Sciences Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (1976–1986). His approach to learning his new field was to undertake an extensive program of travel to libraries that he might emulate. In the process, he built up a network of colleagues, mentors, and friends. In each of his director positions, he developed outstanding collections (for the library at Connecticut he constructed them from scratch), services, staff, and facilities, and he established lasting good relations with faculty and administration.

One of Sam's first recruits, John Breinich, described his management style:

[H]e created an exciting work atmosphere, one where you felt dedicated and inspired to do the best possible job. He made you feel that your role was vital to the total function of the library. He ha[d] an incredible sense of timing combined with an intuitive feeling for interpersonal relationships. Sometimes his decisions and new programs were unorthodox, but

^{*}Established, initially, as the Association of Academic Health Sciences Library Directors (AAHSLD).

they later proved to be vanguards of new trends [1].

His staff at HAM-TMC observed that "[n]o one runs the Library for Sam, and yet at the same time everyone runs the Library for him" [1], and Mary Horres, FMLA, agreed that "Sam was always in charge, even when he was in the background orchestrating the accomplishment of his objective." He was a perfectionist in his own work, and he demanded equally high standards from others. His style was very personal; he was always accessible and visible in the library.

Louise Darling, FMLA, described his "special flair for staff development—especially for finding beginners with a high but still unproven potential and their own brand of enthusiasm for a challenging job" [1]. He recruited nationally—traveling to library schools to interview face-to-face—and he tapped the candidate pools of internship programs at the University of California, Los Angeles, Biomedical Library and at the National Library of Medicine (NLM). He mentored and taught his staff and made them better than they thought they could be, but he expected them to leave the library for advancement when they were ready. Sam also made decisions about people quickly, and he did not often change those opinions even if someone merited a second chance. He was a great supporter of the worth of professional development and insisted on funding for it, wisely calling it as such rather than "travel." He hosted one of the first Council on Library Resources/NLM interns. As Carol Jenkins, AHIP, FMLA, said, "He believed strongly in the value of new talent to foster innovation and the highest quality of service."

Sam was inventive in his approach to staffing, organizing services and dedicating staff to meet new needs. He created a stand-alone user education department at North Carolina—reputedly the first in an academic health sciences library—which developed curricula and taught in the health affairs

schools at North Carolina. He established library positions for systems and research in advance of the expanding role of technology. He supported the innovative online catalog of the Triangle Research Libraries Network, a cornerstone for consortium programs today. With Jane Annis Lambremont, FMLA [2], and other Area Health Education Center (AHEC) library liaisons, he strengthened the library's commitment to outreach and hospital library development through the North Carolina AHEC program.

Sam planned new buildings or major renovations and additions at each of his three libraries. At Connecticut, he modified the existing space plan and oversaw the interior decor. Richard Lyders, AHIP, FMLA, recalled that Sam would call the configuration he inherited "that banana-shaped library," while drawing its profile in the air between his thumb and index finger. In his next two building projects, he controlled the entire process, from planning to construction. He knew the importance of working effectively with architects, planners, and contractors, while retaining his role as the expert on library needs. As a building planner, Sam's commitment to quality and high standards was reflected in his buildings. Mary Horres further noted that he possessed vision, imagination, remarkable observational skills, and a strong aesthetic sense.

Sam's political abilities in achieving proper funding and status for the library were the underpinnings of his success in achieving his goals. At HAM-TMC, he met the challenge of a complex and unique organization—a stand-alone library supported by over twenty institutions and governed by a library board. He was a master at obtaining library support and developing new resources. At North Carolina, he secured ongoing funding sources by negotiating allocation of indirect costs and a contract with the hospital for support. His projection of confidence, experience, and trustworthiness strengthened his

message that support for the library benefited all. He believed in the value of public relations and revamped the library's publications program to communicate with users.

Carol Jenkins, who succeeded Sam at North Carolina, noted that he had achieved his "grand plans" for the library (he had described them to her almost a decade earlier) and that she felt fortunate to come to a library with such a leadership reputation. Sam was named director emeritus, and, in 1987, his accomplishments were recognized by a symposium on campus in his honor, "Leadership in an Information Society."

Professional contributions

Sam attended his first MLA annual meeting in 1966. Though he was new to medical librarianship, MLA quickly recognized his experience and leadership, and his first assignment was to chair the Legislation Committee, from 1968 to 1970. This was a critical time for the profession and for NLM, as Congress was considering the first renewal of the Medical Library Assistance Act (MLAA). In 1970, he was elected to the Board of Directors and, during his three-year term, served as chair of the Committee on Committees and the MLA/NLM Liaison Committee.

Sam became president-elect in 1973, thus immediately starting another term on the board. In his inaugural address, he noted that MLA was "in a time of change so major that we're having difficulty in moving past the crossroads" [3]. The association was growing and undergoing significant cultural change; its first executive director had been appointed, and a new professional position—director of education—had been added. In response to concerns about its organization, an Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Goals and Structure of MLA had submitted seventy-four separate recommendations that the board was considering, and a vote on the proposed new certification code was imminent. Sam was the ideal person to lead MLA through

these crossroads and beyond. He was responsive to member concerns about providing opportunities for as many members as possible to serve on MLA committees. He appointed an Ad Hoc Committee to Study MLA Group Structure, whose recommendations resulted in the chapter and section structure still in place today. Sam appointed the first Board of Consulting Editors for the *Bulletin* and an "augmented Publication Committee . . . to investigate the possibility of a vigorous new publication program for MLA" [4]. Gerald Oppenheimer, AHIP, FMLA, who served as the first chair of the Finance Committee during Sam's presidency, noted, "I think of his presidency as a time of growth, thoughtful planning, and effective execution."

Sam was convinced that a strong publications program would benefit the association. After completing his term as immediate past-president, he served as chair of the Publications Panel from 1976 to 1980, as its consultant in 1980/81, and then as a member until 1986. During his tenure as chair, the panel developed important policies and procedures, such as acceptance criteria for manuscripts, author contracts, and royalty agreements. The first edition of *An Introduction to Reference Sources in the Health Sciences*, the third edition of *Directory of Health Sciences Libraries*, the fourth edition of the *Handbook of Medical Library Practice*, and the first edition of *Hospital Library Management* were planned and published during this time period.

In 1977, Sam accepted the invitation of Gerald Oppenheimer to become a member of the Organizing Committee of AAHSL [5]. Through the efforts of this committee, and with the support of academic medical library directors throughout the country, AAHSL was incorporated as an organization in 1978. Sam assumed the position of president-elect (1978/79) and served as president the following year. Oppenheimer recalled, "Sam and I teamed up, usefully I think, in planning to have a well-founded organization, a strong be-

ginning, and good prospects for a long-lasting future." In 1979, AAHSL took on responsibility for the data collection and publication of the *Annual Statistics of Medical School Libraries in the United States and Canada*. Sam served as a member of its editorial board from 1981 until his retirement in 1986.

Sam's professional contributions reflected his career interests and areas of expertise of library management and personnel, library building design, and future roles for libraries in information management. He published, presented, consulted, and taught on these subjects. He served as a consultant to about twenty libraries on space planning, and he wrote the chapters on space planning for health sciences libraries and on personnel for the fourth edition of the *Handbook of Medical Library Practice*. He served on the editorial or advisory committees of many organizations, including the Association of American Medical Colleges' Project on Information Management in the Eighties. Sam received MLA's highest honor, the Marcia C. Noyes Award, in 1982 and was elected a Fellow in 1986.

Sam the man

Everyone who knew Sam knew of the importance of his family: his warm and charming wife, Harriette, and their four children, Chris, Jon, Alex, and Maria. Harriette and Sam were consummate partners. She was always at his side at MLA meetings and graciously entertained friends and colleagues at home and on the road.

Alex Hitt shared these memories of Sam's second passion, gardening:

My father was a rabid gardener and my mother a fabulous cook. He was first exposed to gardening as he grew up in rural Arkansas and spent summers with his grandparents. He took us to Connecticut where he started the Univ. of Conn. Medical School Library. Gardening continued to consume him and with the help of the "homegrown" work force he transformed a difficult hillside into a terraced wonder. A detour to Hous-

ton, Texas and the medical center library was the nadir of his gardening life. Miserable climate and soil on a quarter acre suburban lot. One Christmas we had railroad ties and top soil brought in and we built him a garden. 8 feet by 16 feet and two feet high he would come home from work, make a drink and go out and work in the garden, it helped keep him sane. Finally he became director of the UNC Medical Library and his garden dreams unfolded. Over three acres of rolling terrain, granite boulders and mature hardwoods eventually would comprise the gardens [6].

Sam's retirement years were filled with the activities he loved most: gardening, food, films, and travel with friends and family. He greatly missed Harriette, who died in 1987, but he kept her memory alive through fond reminiscences and by using her recipes to entertain family and friends. Most Saturdays, during growing season, he could be found "holding court" at Alex and Betsy Hitt's Peregrine Farms booth at the Carrboro Farmer's Market. His children, their spouses and partners, and grandchildren were a constant in his life, providing loving support and comfort.

Rachael Anderson, AHIP, FMLA, recalled that:

Sam loved organizing trips, pulling interesting people together to go with him. He especially loved visiting southern Arizona. His enthusiasm and pleasure for the local wildflowers were quite contagious, and it was a joy to watch his engrossed conversations with pottery vendors in Nogales, Mexico.

Dave Piper, AHIP, noted that:

Traveling down Arizona desert back roads searching out those spectacular wildflower blooms that sometime occur after a winter of good rains is a wonderful thing. About the only thing better is traveling down those roads with Sam. Experiencing those desert displays with him was very special, for Sam loved beauty and enjoyed it profoundly.

Additional memories received during the preparation of this obit-

uary enrich the picture of Sam's persona:

Sam had a genuine interest in people and an uncanny ability, as he would say, to "sniff out" their capabilities. (Mary Horres)

Sam's personality was a mix of casual Southern charm and a steel core of strength. He was probably one of the best-known members of MLA, keeping in touch with so many old friends, and meeting many new members. (John Breinich)

I always thought of him as best at the buttonhole approach, one on one, off the mike, influencing while not appearing to: a Wizard of Oz behind the curtain. (Nina Matheson, AHIP, FMLA)

There was a charisma about Sam, a charm, or maybe it is best to describe it for what it was, a genuine feeling for people. It was clearly evident to all who ever met him. (Richard Lyders)

To the very last, I enjoyed his company, traveling with him, his discriminating appreciation of people, good restaurants, and well-laid out gardens. (Gerald Oppenheimer)

He had a way with words, including colorful Southern expressions and amusing twists of phrases. "You've undone yourself" was a fa-

vorite compliment dispensed at the end of a good meal. (Wade Bunting)

Louise Darling, one of his closest friends, aptly described another of Sam's personal talents:

We will remember him for what may be the world's best grapevine; such that in libraries across the country when anyone wants to find out what is happening where to whom, the best answer is "Just call Sam" [7].

He knew so much because he cared deeply about the future of the profession, and his multigenerational MLA friendships were a crucial part of him. Sadly, we can no longer call Sam for an insightful and entertaining conversation. But his memory will live on in the minds and hearts of all he mentored, influenced, and loved.

Acknowledgments

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Marjan Merala, 1922-2005



Marjan Merala, retired director of the Loren D. Carlson Health Sciences Library, University of California (UC), Davis, died December 2, 2005. He was a leader in veterinary librarianship and one of the founding members of MLA's Veterinary Medical Libraries Section. His colleagues found him to be a "true gentleman and scholar," with a strong knowledge of the literature of veterinary medicine. He established one of the first library instruction courses in veterinary medical resources, for

many years a core course in the master's of preventive medicine curriculum at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Merala was born August 28, 1922, in Ljubljana, Slovenia (then part of the later-named Yugoslavia). He studied law at the University of Ljubljana, but the German invasion of 1941 and ensuing occupation by hostile neighbors forced its closure in 1943. He then joined the local resistance movement, protecting the civilian populace from both the occupying forces and the Communist partisans. After the war, he studied veterinary medicine at the University of Madrid, where he received his *licenciado en medicina veterinaria*

(equivalent of a doctor of veterinary medicine in the United States) about 1949. He would occasionally comment on differences in practice between North America and Spain and gently point out the cultural variants.

Following immigration to the United States in the early 1950s, he earned his library degree from the University of Illinois and worked for a few years at the John Crerar Library at the University of Chicago. While in the city, he met Marija, also a Slovenian émigré; they married in 1956 and had five children. In 1959, J. Richard Blanchard, university librarian at UC Davis, hired him to become the first librarian of its School of Veterinary Medicine.

Merala became assistant university librarian in the 1970s and associate university librarian shortly thereafter, with primary responsibilities for the health sciences libraries. Under his leadership, the veterinary library grew from a single branch library to become a comprehensive health sciences library, with a clinical medicine branch in Sacramento to serve the UC Davis Health System.

His exceptional collection development acumen is reflected in the body of resources at UC Davis, regarded by the faculty in both schools as among the finest in the nation. He imparted a strong service ethos to his staff, which benefited the library's clientele, and he was a supportive colleague and mentor for many.

An excellent bibliographer, Merala contributed the section on veterinary medicine to the first edition of a source guide for agriculture

and biological sciences [1] and compiled the "Directory of Information Sources" for the American Veterinary Medical Association's *Membership Directory and Resource Manual*, coordinating its updates until his retirement in 1986. He contributed to the collection development policies in comparative and veterinary medicine at both the National Agricultural Library and the National Library of Medicine. Following retirement, he was a consultant on the design of the health sciences libraries at the University of Florida, Gainesville, and at the Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico, and his services were in demand from such groups as the World Health Organization.

However, his life's focus was his family. He loved the outdoors and taught all of his children how to ski. Most family vacations were camping trips, when all climbed mountains and swam lakes. For

many years, he was leader of Cub Scout Pack 194, and he conducted many 50-mile hikes for his sons' Boy Scout troop.

Acknowledgments

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Jean Williams Sayre, AHIP, 1951–2006



Jean Williams Sayre, AHIP, associate university librarian and director of the Hardin Library for Health Sciences, University

of Iowa, died on January 28, 2006; she was 54. Her untimely death, from cancer, came as she was reaching the height of her professional career. At the University of Iowa and in her previous positions in the Midwest and South, Jean was a highly respected library leader who had mentored and developed friendships with many of her colleagues.

Born October 13, 1951, and raised in a small town in western Minnesota, Jean was the eldest child of Edward and Norma Anderson. She grew up on the family homestead, recently designated a Century Farm, near Pelican Rapids.

Deeply connected to her Scandinavian heritage, Jean traveled several times to Norway to visit family. She laughed easily about their stoical perseverance and reserved mannerisms, their pragmatism and liberalism, but also recognized these characteristics in herself.

After graduating from Pelican Rapids High School, Jean earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 1973 (University of Minnesota Duluth) and a master's degree in library science in 1975 (University of Minnesota Minneapolis). Jean's early professional experiences, all in Minnesota, included a Mayo Clinic internship and appointments at the Minneapolis Public Library, the Golden Valley Health Center, and American Medical Systems (a medical devices company). From 1978 to 1980, she was the assistant director of the Southeast Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Library at the University of North Dakota in Fargo. Stories of her AHEC win-

ter travels, occasionally by university helicopter, later amazed and entertained colleagues. From there, she went to Iowa City Veterans Administration Medical Center as its librarian.

In 1981, Jean accepted the position of assistant director of the Mercer University School of Medicine Library and became a member of its charter faculty. She took an active role in the formative days of the new school, serving as tutor in the Community Science program, student advisor, and voting member of the Admissions Committee. She was also a founder of the Georgia Interactive Network for Medical Information (GaIN), an electronic network linking rural physicians and hospitals to information resources in the days well before personal computers were common. For her innovative work with GaIN, Jean was a corecipient of MLA's Frank Bradway Rogers Information Advancement Award in 1992.

Jean's interest in outreach extended throughout her career. Early experiences with hospital libraries, along with her work with GaIN, led to a statewide influence in Ohio. Following a year as a librarian consultant at the University of Mississippi Rowland Medical Library, Jean accepted an appointment at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in 1989. There, as assistant professor, director, and chief medical librarian of the Oliver Ocasek Regional Medical Information Center until 1996, she established a hospital library network to enable connectivity to the Internet and medical resources. She guided hospital librarians to review larger issues such as collection sharing, and she was instrumental in leading the development of the first regional OhioLINK depository. Jean served as chair of the OhioLINK Library Advisory Council from 1995 to 1996.

Jean's demonstrated experience and outreach skills provided excellent qualifications for the position of associate director for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) Greater Midwest Region (GMR) at the University of Illinois in Chicago. From 1997 to 2001, she provided regional and national oversight of one of the largest regions of the NN/LM programs. Among her accomplishments were promoting cooperation, introducing distance learning for GMR, overseeing numerous subcontracts, and successfully leading the five-year contract renewal in 2001.

In 2002, Jean was appointed di-

rector of the Hardin Library. Charismatically, she reorganized it and achieved efficiencies without disaffecting the staff. Jean received a significant grant that resulted in the Iowa Public Health Information project, a Web portal for linking local public health information with relevant national information for Iowa public health professionals <<http://www.iowapublichealth.org>>. Simultaneously, she led a major remodeling effort, recognized in 2005 by the university's Improving Our Workplace Award. She raised the profile of the library on campus, throughout the state, and across the nation. Her contributions to the university and the state were recently recognized by a Certificate of Recognition, issued by Governor Thomas Vilsack.

A familiar figure and frequent presenter at local, regional, and national meetings, Jean served on many Medical Library Association committees, notably the 2000 and 2005 National Program Committees, the 2001 Nominating Committee, and the Grants and Scholarship Committee, which she chaired in 1994/95. She was an ardent member of the Medical Informatics Section, which she chaired in 2003/04, and she headed the Southern Chapter in 1984/85. She was the author of several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, generally with themes of outreach and education.

Jean's personal interests were wide-ranging, always passionate and carrying a fresh perspective. Interest in political events was a

lifetime avocation that was reflected in her work with the MLA/Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Joint Legislative Task Force and culminated with her very active participation in the Howard Dean presidential campaign. Jean was knowledgeable and well read in alternative and natural medicines, often serving as a resource for others. She encouraged all to look outside traditional medicine for alternative choices to balance life health. Above all, her friends and colleagues remember most her enduring loyalty and friendships, that sense of humor, her spiritual journey, and her willingness to share intellectual explorations and unusual experiences.

Jean is survived by her loving husband Robert and her three brothers Edward, Kevin, and Keith Anderson and their families (three nieces and four great nieces). A funeral service was held in Pelican Rapids, followed by a memorial service at the University of Iowa.

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